

## *Mimusops elengi* L.

### Family:

Sapotaceae

Linnaeus, C. von (1753) *Species Plantarum* ed. 1 2: 349. Type: India ?.

### Common name:

Red Coondoo; Mimusops; Mamajen

### Stem

Dead bark layered. White, granular stripes in the outer blaze.

### Leaves

Petioles and twigs produce a watery milky exudate. Terminal buds and younger leafy twigs clothed in brown hairs. Leaf blades about 3-11 x 2-5 cm. Lateral veins forming loops just inside the blade margin. Stipules narrow, about 3-5 mm long, tapering to a point. Stipules caducous.

### Flowers

Sepals in two whorls of four. Corolla segments eight but each of them with two dorsal appendages of the same size and shape as the segment itself, giving the appearance of 24 segments. Stamens eight, staminodes eight. Ovary 8-locular.

### Fruit

Fruits globular or ellipsoid, about 12-17 x 12-15 mm. Calyx persistent. Seeds 1 or 2 per fruit, each about 11-15 x 7-10 mm, hilum +/- circular, basal. Cotyledons flat and thin.

### Seedlings

Cotyledons ovate or elliptic, about 15-25 mm long. At the tenth leaf stage: leaf blade elliptic or obovate, apex slightly acuminate, glabrous on the upper surface, midrib raised on the upper surface of the leaf blade. Stipules about 1 mm long, linear, hairy, caducous; petiole, terminal bud and stem densely clothed in rusty brown hairs. Seed germination time 16 to 88 days.

### Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ and CEQ. Altitudinal range from sea level to 200 m. Grows in monsoon forest, beach forest and drier, more seasonal rain forest. Also occurs in Asia, Malesia and the Pacific islands. The fruit of this tree is much sought after by fruit eating pigeons particularly Torresian Imperial-Pigeons (*Ducula bicolor*).

### Natural History & Notes

Fruit eaten by Fruit Pigeons. Cooper & Cooper (1994).

An attractive tree that will withstand salt laden winds and often grows on the beach front. It has good shape and the flowers and fruits are showy. Fruits are sought after by birds.

### Synonyms

*Diospyros longipes* Hiern, *The Journal of Botany* 54 : 338(1916), Type: Habitat prope oppidum Townsville, in ditionis Queensland parte tropica, a cl. R.H. Cabbage, F.L.S., 11 Aug. 1913, lecta.

### RFK Code

510



Flower and bud. © Barry Jago



Leaves and flower. © R.L. Barrett



Leaves and Flowers. © CSIRO



Leaves and fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit. © CSIRO



Fruit, side views and seeds. © W.

T. Cooper



Scale bar 10mm. © CSIRO



Cotyledon stage, epigeal germination. © CSIRO



10th leaf stage. © CSIRO



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